

Survey Advisory Board Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

December 10, 2014

8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Radisson Hotel

18118 International Blvd., SeaTac, WA 98188

Board Members Present:

Walt Dale, PLS, Urban, Chair

Bruce Dodds, PE/PLS, Multi-Discipline

Steve Palmen, PLS Government

Board Members Absent:

Martin Paquette, PLS, Education,

Tim Kent, PLS, Rural

Staff Present:

Pat Beehler, PLS

Kris Horton, PLS

John Gasche, LSIT

Guests:

Casey Kaul, Pierce Co. Auditor's office

Rosemary Johnson, Pierce Co. Auditor's office

Chair Walt Dale called the meeting to order at 8:16 a.m.

The minutes of the August 2014 meeting were unanimously approved with one correction.

Survey Advisory Board Liaison to the Board of Registration

No report.

Monument Protection

John Gasche reported that he has a spreadsheet index of Permits. In that index, he tracks the number of monuments in each Permit. He will email an update on the number of monuments included in Permits since the last meeting (Aug 2014).

Monument Brochure

Since the Board members did not have a chance to get back to Kris with main points for the brochure, it was decided that the easiest course of action was to have Kris work up the draft brochure language (text) and then have the Board members review it.

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WAC 332-130 – Applicability to maps (other than ROS)

The Board members voted and it was agreed that WAC 332-130 applies to all survey maps, not just Records of Surveys.

Update on DNR Presentations:

Kris and John will be doing a presentation tomorrow at the quarterly Washington Utility Coordinating Council meeting in Burlington. It will only be a 20 minute (max.) presentation/introduction, but Kris has prepared a handout that can be given to site workers to educate them about survey monuments.

Kris and John presented to the County Engineers Association in November (Spokane). It was a 30 minute presentation on Monument Preservation.

Kris will be doing a presentation at the Washington Council of County Surveyors conference in January 2015. Walt suggested the topic of map scanning/uniformity. John will do a half-hour of the presentation on the monument Permit.

Kris will be doing a four hour presentation at the LSAW conference in March 2015.

Overall, the outreach has produced good contacts and the information has been well received.

Report from Auditor's Recording Committee liaison to the SAB

Rosemary said that Archives sent out a notice that they would no longer be able to accept original maps due to lack of storage space. This would affect most of the counties on the west side of the state.

Rosemary asked if it was required that the counties keep the original map. RCW 58.09.110(5) was looked at and the Board members agreed that the county would be exempt from keeping the original if it can electronically create a permanent, archival records that meets requirements/standards as set forth in 434-663 or 434-677 WAC, and be able to produce a full size copy of the map upon request. Casey and Rosemary said that they would look into it further by researching other RCW/WAC's that pertain to Auditor's office procedures.

Casey brought up an issue with notary stamps and signatures that has been showing up recently. The ink used on both the stamp and signature are blue, not black as required in 332-130-050 WAC (and noted on the recording checklist). The blue ink doesn't scan well and creates a contrast uniformity issue. Pierce County recording office has been rejecting the maps for recording. Casey asked if the blue is acceptable or not, in these cases. It was agreed that the blue ink does not comply with the WAC. The recording offices are trying to educate the public & notaries about the issue, but thought it would be a good idea to also get word out to the surveyors.

Changes to the LCR form

Pat stated that his understanding is that the wording in RCW 58.09.040(2) clearly states an LCR was meant for PLSS/GLO/BLM monuments only. Walt found a copy of SAB meeting minutes/notes from 1969 that explains the reasoning behind the creation of the LCR. The 1969 minutes show that it was originally intended for GLO/PLSS corners. The Board suggested changing the heading to be "GLO Land Corner Record*" and then adding a note....something like (*Intended to be used for GLO/PLSS corners, but may be used for other corners not applicable for an ROS or Permit.)

Kris said that feedback from some surveyors was that they weren't sure what to use for the ¼ ¼ if the corner pertains to more than one ¼ ¼ or section. It was agreed that the instruction for the new form would include a statement that the surveyor needs to just pick one ¼ ¼ S-T-R, since it's for indexing purposes only. Surveyors should know to search all surrounding sections if using the Auditor's research

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site. Kris will add that to the instructions and send out the updated form and instructions to the Board members for final review.

Liaison to Auditors Recording Committee – Walt Dale

Walt sent the changes to the “maps” portion of the new Recording Manual to Vicky Dalton (Spokane County Auditor). There has been talk of updating the “Checklist” (332-130-050 WAC). The WAC language would need to be revised. It was mentioned that this should be done at the same time as the revisions to WAC 332-130, which is just an organizational revision. Casey will get feedback from the recording staffs about changes they see need to happen to the “Checklist”.

PLSO Website

Pat Beehler talked to the DNR Communications Director about the possibility of making the PLSO website more accessible and easier to navigate. He said that DNR is in the process of updating/making changes to the entire site, but that it’s a “work in progress”.

Rule Making

These items were discussed for rule making:

Revisions to WAC 332-130:

(Organization) Kris re-formatted the Word document (indents, etc.) presented by Ron at the April meeting. Kris forwarded the document to Pat Beehler. It was agreed to hold off on proceeding with the Code Reviser’s process (CR101, etc.) until all changes are done. The other changes are to the “Checklist”, 332-130-070....080.....090 WAC. It was agreed it would be more streamline to process all of them at once.

Accuracy Standards for a Traverse (WAC 332-130-090):

Martin emailed his “cleaned up” draft of changes to WAC 332-130-080 and 332-130-090 with ALTA/ACSM standards incorporated. Walt provided a real world example of GPS vs. traverse accuracy (tolerance). It was agreed to hold off on any decision until the next meeting, when all Board members will be present.

Surveyor’s Narrative:

Based on the fact that several of the Board members communicated via email that the proposed narrative rule (requirement) was redundant to the WAC’s, Kris did not send the proposal back out for public comment. There was much discussion about whether this rule is truly needed, or not. It was discussed that more education and compliance is needed in relation to the current laws/regulations. The Board members present decided to wait until the next meeting to vote about it, but the consensus was that it’s not needed. After the next meeting, Kris will send out via the PLSO/SAB Listserv the Board’s position concerning this subject.

Topographic Standards RCW 58.24.040(1):

Bruce stated that he is concerned that as an LS, he would not be able to comply with new standards when counties request 2' contour topo on preliminary (or final) maps. Engineers have the ability to provide site topo without conforming to the LS standards. It was mentioned that topo's are client driven and as such, their request and specific needs vary for each project. The Board members present decided to vote on it at the next meeting (as to whether they will "leave it alone" or proceed with creating standards).

Revision of Recording Fees

The Commissioner of Public Land approved the proposal of an increase of the map recording fee from \$46 to \$64, which would allow the PLSO to hire one additional FTE for indexing. The proposal goes before the Board of Natural Resources for a vote at their meeting on January 6, 2015. If the BNR approves it, then Pat will proceed with the CR101, 102 & 103 process. If all progresses as it should, the new fee could be implemented in about four to five months. Pat will keep the Auditors apprised of the situation/progress.

"Did you know?" articles

Tim was not able to work on these yet. It was discussed to send the articles out through the PLSO/SAB Listserv, possibly the BOR Listserv or Journal, and the WCCS and/or LSAW. Possible topics for the articles: Affidavits of Minor Correction, Map uniformity, letting surveyors know that the PLSO is putting together a PowerPoint about scanning & map uniformity and that it will be available on the website. Kris will work with Laurie Owen (PLSO imaging specialist) on revising her current PowerPoint document. Letting the surveying community know that blue ink used by notaries does not comply with the map uniformity standards could be another topic for the articles.

PLSO Update

Kris has been sending out an update to WebXtender customers about the indexing status of all counties' current maps, since they're at least 3 months behind on most maps. One of the two indexers was out the month of November due to medical issues. That caused even more of a backlog.

The PLSO acquired 22 pallets of records from Ken Long, which included many surveys pre-recording act. The records are stored at the DNR Tumwater warehouse until such time as the PLSO can go through the records.

The update/upgrade of ApplicationXtender and WebXtender will start toward the end of December and should be completed by the end of January 2015.

New Items

Kris requested that the Board Members send any copies of poorly drawn maps to her, so she can address the issues during her presentations at the WCCS and LSAW conferences.

Good of the Order

The impact of aerial vehicles providing digital images and topo/contours that don't comply with WAC or RCW standards/laws. There was discussion about the possible impact of the survey profession by the ever changing technology.

Steve reported that WSDOT uses digital signatures in-house.

Pat said that AELC (Architects & Engineers Legislative Council) may require photogrammetrists to be licensed, and that Oregon has that requirement.

LSAW: No report.

Next Steps

The next meeting of the SAB will be Thursday, March 19, 2015 at the SeaTac Airport Conference Center. More details to be provided later, as this is a new venue.

Assignments

- Board Members:
 - Tim to create "Did you know?" document for the proposed PLSO Newsletter, to put in the BOR Journal and to send out to the members of the survey profession. First subject: Applicability of WAC 332-130.....not just for Records of Survey. Another idea was to inform about the Transfer on Death Deed. Casey will send Tim the information about the TDD.
 - Walt to send Kris the draft of the changes to the map "checklist" for Auditor's
 - All Board members to review RCW 58.09.110 for interpretation.
 - Board members to review the example monument preservation brochures Kris will send them and then get back to her with main points they think should be in the brochure.
 - Review the 332-130 WAC re-organization.
 - Vote on the Narrative and Topo Standards at the next meeting.
- Kris will
 - Create draft language for the Monument Preservation brochure and sent to Board Member for review and comment.
 - Finalize the new LCR form and Instruction and send to the Board members for review and comment.
 - Work on getting the Scanning/Map uniformity PowerPoint created for Auditors and Surveyors.
 - John to provide the Permit & monument numbers to the Board members.
 - Work with the Auditors on a handout/brochure they can give to customers. Subject: survey map recording requirements.....FAQ's.....
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- Pat will
 - Contact BOR about putting the "Did you know?" document Tim creates in the Journal

Meeting Adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

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